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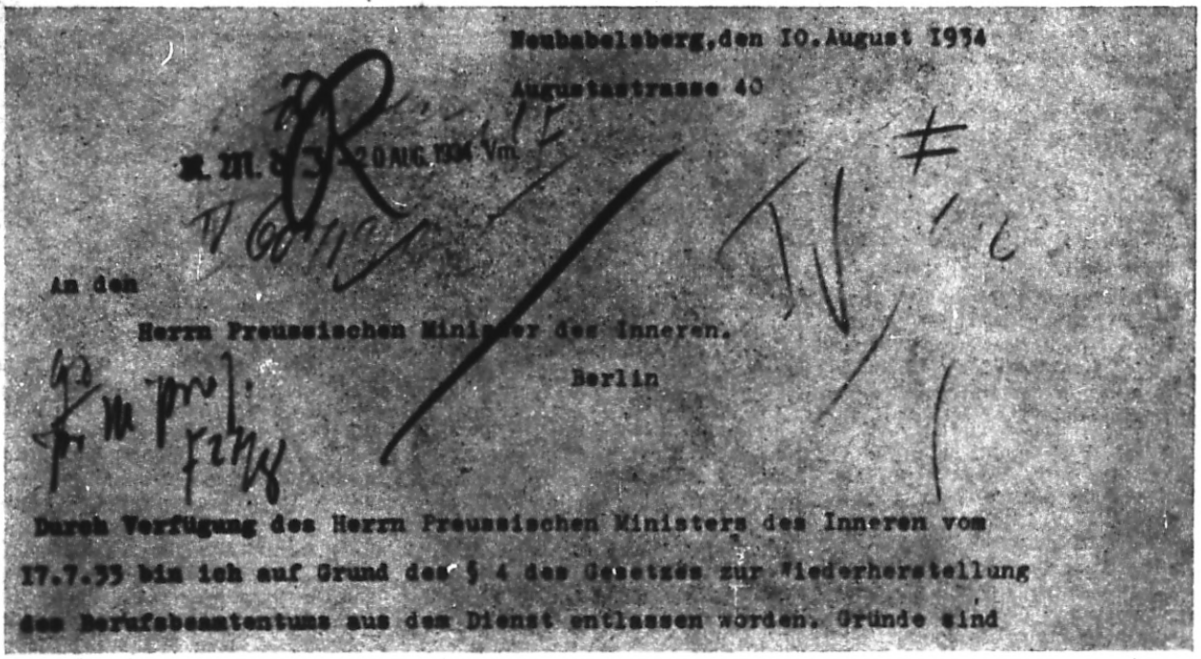
"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN NICE TO NAZIS"

- Adenauer (1934)



Neubabelsberg, den 10. August 1934

Augustastrasse 40

An den

Herrn Preussischen Minister des Inneren.

Berlin

Durch Verfügung des Herrn Preussischen Ministers des Inneren vom 17.7.33 bin ich auf Grund des § 4 des Gesetzes zur Wiederherstellung des Berufsbeamtentums aus dem Dienst entlassen worden. Gründe sind

In the files of the nazi Ministry of the Interior, now held by the authorities of the German Democratic Republic, research workers recently found a revealing letter written in 1934 by Konrad Adenauer, today Chancellor of West Germany. When the nazis came to power in 1933 they had dismissed Konrad Adenauer as Lord Mayor of Cologne, and deprived him of his pension. Adenauer felt that he had been unjustly treated, and on August 10th 1934 he wrote a ten-page letter to Wilhelm Frick, Prussian and Reich Minister of the Interior, claiming that he had always been "nice to the nazis" and asking for his pension back. Frick was hanged as a war criminal in Nuremberg on October 16th 1946.

In his letter, long extracts from which are published on the following pages, Adenauer makes these points:

1. "I have always treated the Nazi Party in an absolutely correct manner", even when this involved ignoring directives given by the Government of the Weimar Republic.

2. "For years I allowed the Nazi Party to hoist its swastika flag ... contrary to the decrees of the Prussian Ministry of the Interior."

3. "I stated that such a large party as the Nazi Party must undoubtedly be represented in a leading capacity in the Government."

4. It is extremely painful to be dismissed on the grounds that I am 'nationally unreliable'. I urgently request that the decision be revised."

As a result of his begging letter, Adenauer's pension was restored. Throughout the entire nazi period the nazi state paid him an annual pension of 12,000 marks — about £1000, and in 1938 made him a special grant of 280,000 marks (over £20,000) because he had been deprived of his post as Lord Mayor.

Now read Adenauer's begging letter. The photostatic reproductions of parts of this letter have never before been published.

Adenauer's Begging Letter

(Passages printed in bold face are those reproduced in the photostats on these pages)

Neubabelsberg, August 10th 1934
The Prussian Minister of the Interior
Berlin.

By decree of the Prussian Minister of the Interior of July 17th 1933 I was dismissed (from the post of Lord Mayor of Cologne, ed.) **on the basis of Paragraph 4 of the Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service.** I was not informed of the reasons. I herewith apply for an investigation of this case under Paragraph 6 of this law, and to be placed on the retired list.

(Adenauer then quotes at length the text of the relevant nazi legislation and decrees purging the civil service, stressing the following stipulations:

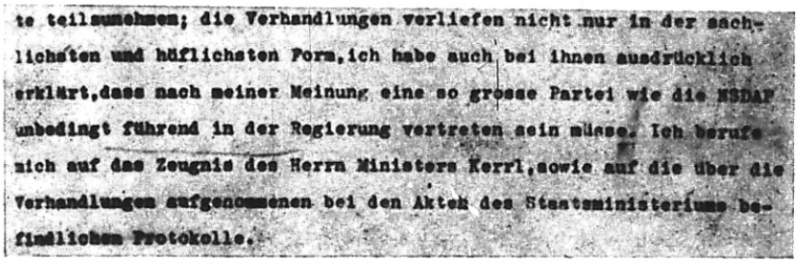
1. The entire political activity of the civil servant, particularly since November 9th 1918, is to be considered.

2. Membership of a non-nazi party, taken alone, is not proof of "national unreliability".

3. Civil servants should be purged "if they had attacked the national movement in a slanderous manner, maligned its leadership, or used their office to persecute nationally-minded officials.")

In 1906, after passing my examinations as Court Assessor in 1902, I entered the service of the City of Cologne. In 1917 I was unanimously elected Lord Mayor of Cologne, and confirmed by the Monarch. In 1929 I was re-elected, although the Social Democrats and Communists fought hard against my re-election.

I have been, for a long period, a registered member of the Zentrum Party; I have never belonged to any other party. **I have always treated the NSDAP (Nazi Party, ed.) in an absolutely correct manner; in so doing I found myself repeatedly at loggerheads with ministerial directives, and the opinions of the Zentrum fraction of the Cologne City Parliament.**


te teilzunehmen; die Verhandlungen verliefen nicht nur in der sachlichsten und höflichsten Form, ich habe auch bei ihnen ausdrücklich erklärt, dass nach meiner Meinung eine so grosse Partei wie die NSDAP unbedingt führend in der Regierung vertreten sein müsse. Ich berufe mich auf das Zeugnis des Herrn Ministers Kerrl, sowie auf die über die Verhandlungen aufgenommenen bei den Akten des Staatsministeriums befindlichen Protokolle.

"The Nazi Party must undoubtedly be in the Government . . ."

For years, contrary to the decrees of the Prussian Ministry of the Interior, I made available to the NSDAP the municipal sports grounds, and allowed the NSDAP to hoist its swastika flag on the municipal flag poles at its meetings held there. I refer here to the relevant files of the Cologne Municipality, and testimony given by Herr Billstein.

For years, in the relevant committees, and contrary to the ministerial directives, I urged that municipal advertising should be given to the "Westdeutschen Beobachter" (Nazi Party newspaper in Cologne, ed.). See the Protocol Book of the Constitutional Committee of the City of Cologne.

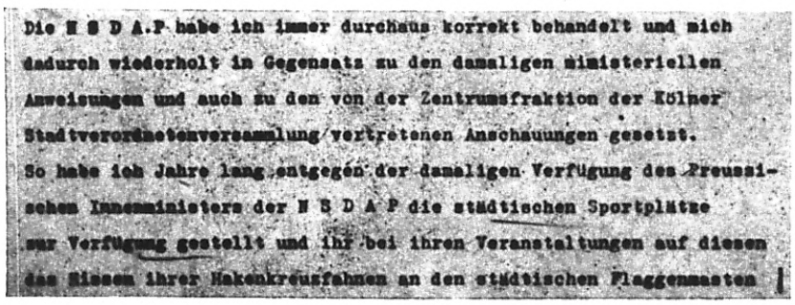
In summer 1930 I ordered that the decree of the Prussian Ministry of State, instructing that National Socialist officials should be named so that they could be disciplined, should not be put into effect, since I held this decree to be unjustified and unjust. See the testimony of Herr Berndorf in Cologne.

At that time the nationalist city councillor Gauleiter Grohé asked me whether city officials who gave their support to the NSDAP had anything to fear from me. I told him ... that if any official wanted to give his support to the NSDAP outside office hours, then this was purely his personal affair, and that such official had nothing to fear from me.

Something which happened on one of the last Sundays before the Reichstag election of March 5th 1933 aroused the impression that I was handling the NSDAP in a hostile manner amongst a certain part of the Cologne NSDAP which did not know the full facts. In the night before this Sunday, swastika flags were secretly flown on the pylons of the suspension bridge. This bridge was municipal property, and was only decked with flags when the city administration itself ordered the flagging. As a result I informed the Cologne party leadership that I could understand that the party wished to show its flags at its meeting, but that this was a municipal building which was not near to the scene of the meeting; I said that I was, however, agreeable that the flags should be hoisted in front of the Fair building in which the meeting should be held, and that the party leadership should send somebody who should give instructions where the flags should be hoisted. After this, municipal officials, in the presence of a representative of the party leadership, erected flag-poles in front of the Fair hall, and the flags were then hoisted here. Proof: testimony of Herr Billstein of Cologne.

From the date of the establishment of the Prussian State Council, I was member and President of this Council until 1933. There were very seldom any party-political debates in the State Council, and I never participated ...

The so-called "three-man-collegium" foreseen by the Prussian Constitution, composed of the Prime Minister, Chairman of the Landtag, and President of the State Council, met only twice, in the winter of 1932-33, on the application of Landtag Chairman Kerrl (leading nazi, ed.), in order to rule on the dissolution of the Landtag ... **The sessions were very factual and polite, and at these meetings I stated specifically that I thought that such a large party as the NSDAP**


Die N S D A.P habe ich immer durchaus korrekt behandelt und mich dadurch wiederholt in Gegensatz zu den damaligen ministeriellen Anweisungen und auch zu den von der Zentrumsfraktion der Kölner Stadtverordnetenversammlung vertretenen Anschauungen gesetzt. So habe ich Jahre lang entgegen der damaligen Verfügung des Preussischen Innenministers der N S D A P die städtischen Sportplätze zur Verfügung gestellt und ihr bei ihren Veranstaltungen auf diesen das Hissen ihrer Hakenkreuzfahnen an den städtischen Flaggenmasten

"I have always treated the Nazi Party well . . ."

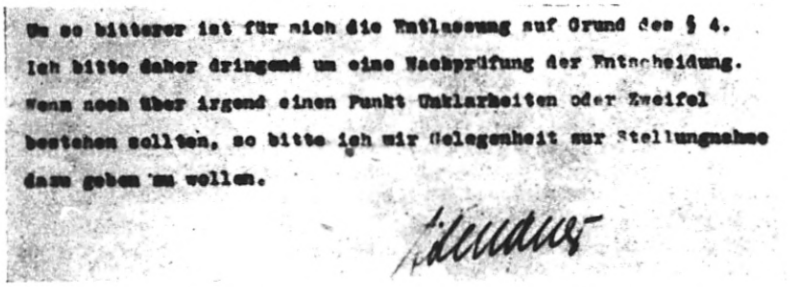
must undoubtedly be represented in a leading capacity in the Government. I refer to the testimony of Minister Kerrl, and the protocols of the meetings in the files of the State Ministry.

(Adenauer devoted the next seven pages of his long letter to his services to "the German cause" during the 1918 revolution "and the period of the enemy occupation". He drew particular attention to the fact that he had prevented the hoisting of the Red Flag on the Cologne City Hall during the 1918 revolution. Most of the long account is devoted to the attempt to prove that he played no part in attempts to establish a French-sponsored "Rhine Republic" after World War One.)

For me and for my family – I have seven children – it is extremely painful to be dismissed on the grounds that I am "nationally unreliable". I think that I can claim that under the most difficult circumstances I played a considerable part in saving the German Rhineland. After the withdrawal of the British occupation, President von Hindenburg thanked me warmly for my services, and presented me with his portrait.

This makes it even more bitter for me to be dismissed under the terms of Paragraph 4. I urgently request that the decision be revised. If there is still uncertainty or unclarity on any point, I would be glad of the opportunity to state my case.

Adenauer



Um so bitterer ist für mich die Entlassung auf Grund des § 4. Ich bitte daher dringend um eine Nachprüfung der Entscheidung. Wenn noch über irgend einen Punkt Unklarheiten oder Zweifel bestehen sollten, so bitte ich mir Gelegenheit zur Stellungnahme dazu geben zu wollen.

Adenauer

"It is bitter for me to be dismissed . . . Adenauer."

More About the Chancellor

Western newspapers sometimes attempt to present Chancellor Adenauer as some sort of hero of the anti-nazi resistance movement. Here are some facts on the case taken from the authorised biography of Adenauer published in West Germany in 1955 ("Konrad Adenauer – Die Autorisierte Biographie" by Paul Weymar, Kindler Verlag, Munich 1955):

1. "Shortly before the outbreak of war, Adenauer travelled with his wife to Switzerland, and returned weeks later" (p. 193). Opponents of the nazi regime received no passports or currency for foreign travel. Anti-nazis who managed to get abroad just before World War Two stayed there.

2. "At that time (1943) Adenauer absolutely refused to take an active part in political affairs. When Goerdeler (of the 1944 anti-Hitler bomb plot) tried to get in touch with him . . . Adenauer made it quite plain that he would have no part in any such enterprise." (p. 196)

3. During the nazi period, Adenauer was arrested three times. On June 30th 1934 he was detained for 48 hours, together with a number of generals and bankers (p. 171–173). After the bomb-plot against Hitler in July 1944, the Gestapo rounded up almost all prominent old-time politicians, including Adenauer. During his three weeks detention he had the service of a batman who brought him breakfast in bed and he received daily food parcels (p. 206–207). In October 1944 he was arrested again, but received special treatment and was released on instructions from the SS head office in Berlin (p. 247–248). Despite these arrests, his pension was never cancelled.

4. In 1945, when the war ended, he was living peacefully at home, and the nazis allotted him French slave labourers to care for his private garden (p. 261).

Summing up Adenauer's life during the nazi period, the official US German-language newspaper in West Germany, "Neue Zeitung" stated on September 16th 1949: "He did not worry. He pottered about in his garden, and tended his roses."

Immediately after the end of the war, the British Military authorities appointed Adenauer Mayor of Cologne, but sacked him a few weeks later for "incompetence".

Thus Spake Adenauer . . .

"It is frightening to recall what the Russians did to defenceless Germans when they invaded Germany."

(Parliamentary debate, February 8th 1952)

"We regard with respect all those who have borne weapons for our people, as part of our great military tradition. We are convinced that the good name and the great achievements of the German soldiers still live on amongst our people, despite all attempts to besmirch this name in the past few years."

(Parliamentary debate, December 5th 1952)

"We shall take special measures to help peasants fleeing from East Germany, so that they can then one day go about the task of colonising the eastern territories."

(February 1st 1953)

"Our aim is to liberate our brothers and sisters in the eastern territories."

(September 7th 1953)

"I am greatly pleased you have been given your freedom after long and difficult years."

(Telegram to released war criminal Constantin von Neurath, November 6th, 1954)

"The ratification of the Paris Agreements means that the spirit of Yalta and Potsdam has been buried."

(Parliamentary debate, March 18th 1955)

"We must be armed to the teeth if we want to speak to the Russians in a friendly way."

(October 12th 1956)

"I lay the greatest value on the memory of the war years being finally buried."

(April 8th 1959)

"The (West German) Federal Government tolerates no dyed-in-the-wool nazis in responsible positions."

(November 15th 1959)

"I think that God has given the German people a special task in these stormy times – to be a guardian for the West against those powerful influences which are brought to bear on us from the East."

(Audience with the Pope, January 22nd 1960)

"The idea of an atom-free zone is sheer nonsense. And what, in the name of God, would be the use of a peace conference? Nothing would come out of it." **(July 9th 1961)**

Programme of the New West German Government

The programme to be followed by the new West German Government was defined in a coalition agreement between the Christian Democrats and Free Democrats published on November 6th.

The programme calls for rocket weapons for the Bundeswehr; more West German command posts in NATO; opposition to any sensible solution of the German problem; and a whole series of reactionary new laws granting favours to SS officers, nazi industrialists, and big business.

Here are some of the main points of the programme:

1. Military Policy

"The NATO alliance must be strengthened in the following ways:

a. By increased political consultation and by increased military integration, particularly by a further integration of the Bundeswehr in the command structure of the NATO.

b. The German Federal Republic will increase its defence efforts in particular by **introducing general compulsory defence duty in the military and civil fields, and by increasing the military conscription period to eighteen months.**

c. **All NATO states must be equipped with modern weapons, including the modern carrier-weapons.** In the question of control over the nuclear warheads an agreement must be aimed at which will lay down co-determination rights for the European partners in the framework of a NATO formula. The same should apply to the use of NATO special troops with special equipment.

d. 13,500 million marks to be devoted to defence in 1962, plus the sums necessary for contingency planning ...

e. Support for the preparatory military measures of the allies on German soil.

f. Use of special legal measures for priority defence programmes ...

g. Special legislation providing for the declaration of martial law.

h. Further extension of Technical Emergency Aid (para-military pioneer units, ed.) and civil defence."

2. Policy on the German problem

On the German question, the programme flatly turned down all suggestions made recently in East and West for a solution of the German problem on the basis of the recognition of the existence of two German states, the final fixing of the Oder-Neisse frontier, and the establishment of West Berlin as a demilitarised free city. The coalition agreement stated that the new West German Government will not tolerate:

"a. A reduction in the substance of German unity by means of loosening or ending the ties between Berlin and the Federal Republic.

b. A reduction in the substance of German unity by means of any form of recognition of a German part-state in the territory of the Soviet Zone of Occupation: this does not apply to technical contacts with organs of the Soviet Occupation Zone, which shall be carried out on both sides by persons specially commissioned.

c. A reduction of the substance of German unity by a direct or indirect sanctioning of the illegal acts of August 13th 1961, or by recognising the right of the Soviet Union or the authorities of the Soviet Occupation Zone to supervise civil air traffic to and from Berlin.

d. A settlement of the frontier question before the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany."

The portion of the coalition programme dealing with internal policy laid down, in often very obscure language, that a series of extremely reactionary laws should be passed in the coming four years. Here are some examples:

1. Special legislation shall finalise the situation "under Article 131 of the Basic Law". This means, in plain language, that full pension rights will be granted to even the few categories of nazis and SS officers still excluded.

2. In preparation for West German conquest of the GDR, legislation shall provide for the restitution of property to land-owners and big factory owners.

3. New legislation will grant restitution to nazi industrialists whose factories were dismantled and removed by the allies as reparations after World War Two.

4. Measures shall be taken to transfer to private ownership "profit-making enterprises in the public hand". Rent restrictions shall be abolished.

5. Health insurance legislation shall be overhauled "to increase the individual responsibility" of the persons insured.

6. The coalition parties pledge themselves not to allow any extension of the present very tenuous "rights of worker co-determination" in the factories, and not to allow trade unions to collect "solidarity levies" to help strikers or trade unionists in other countries.

7. All parties represented in parliament shall receive a government subsidy, graded according to the number of seats held. This step will make it more difficult for opposition parties to make headway.

A Nazi Foreign Minister

In forming his new government, Chancellor Adenauer sacked his former Foreign Minister, bumbling, chain-smoking Heinrich von Brentano, and replaced him by a streamlined lawyer and former long-time nazi, Dr Gerhard Schroeder.

Dr Schroeder, who has never in the past had anything to do with foreign policy, is chiefly noted in Bonn for his vanity (one of his nick-names translates well as "Pretty-Boy" Gerhard); his ruthless careerism; and for his consistent efforts in eight years as Minister of the Interior to turn West Germany into a police state.

Schroeder, aged 51, and a member of Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union, studied law at Bonn, Berlin, Koenigsberg and Edinburgh. After the nazis came to power in 1933 they gave him a post as lecturer at the Berlin "Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Foreign and International Law".

In order to get ahead, he joined the Nazi Party and became a candidate member of the brown-shirted Storm Troops in 1933. This is what the American newsmagazine "Newsweek" had to say about Schroeder on February 1st 1960:

"Gerhard Schroeder is Interior Minister in Chancellor Adenauer's Cabinet, charged with responsibility for suppressing neo-Nazism. Schroeder told the West German Parliament on July 4th 1958: 'I was neither before

the Third Reich, nor during the Third Reich, for a single minute a National Socialist'. Yet the US Document Centre in Berlin ... contains proof that Schroeder was a party member from 1933–43.

"What is the explanation? To find out, NEWSWEEK reporter Reginald Peck questioned Herr Schroeder and got these revealing replies:

Were you a Nazi? Certainly not.

But aren't you listed as a party member from 1933–43? It is true that I was a member ... but in the circumstances of the time membership did not necessarily mean that one was Nazi in thought.

Then why did you join? I was a young lawyer, and knew I could never get anywhere ... without being in the party.

It has also been said that you were in the Storm Troopers. That is untrue. I was only a candidate.

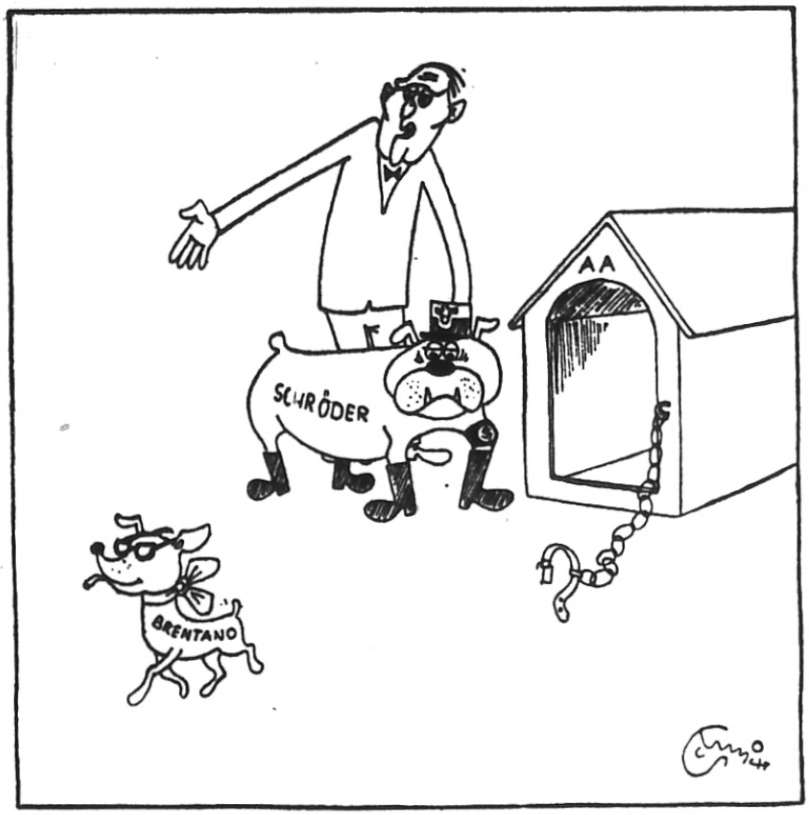
Then you tried to join. Why? I was given to understand that I had not made much of an impression in the party, and that I had better do something ...

Why did you leave the party? I was regarded as pretty poor material by the Nazis, so I stepped out."

After the war Schroeder, who had joined the Nazi Party "in order to get somewhere", promptly joined the Christian Democratic Union with the same aim. On February 9th 1952 the "New York Herald Tribune" noted that Dr Gerhard Schroeder was "one of the rising young industrialists in the Ruhr" on the board of the Kloeckner Trust, one of the biggest steel concerns which had grown fat on Hitler's armament orders.

In 1953 Adenauer picked him as Minister of the Interior. In this post, the "New York Times" stated on November 4th 1961, he displayed "a tough mind that is said to prefer running over the opposition to seeking compromises with it ... plus a razor-edged tongue and a cold manner." In the Ministry of the Interior Schroeder played a major part in banning the Communist Party and dozens of progressive and peace organisations, and in initiating court proceedings against an estimated 150,000 men and women who opposed West German policy. In February this year he forecast repressive measures against the West German "Association of Persecutees of the Nazis (VVN)" and a long list of other anti-nazi organisations stated to be "communist-influenced".

In 1953 Schroeder stated: "The Federal Republic is the core of Germany. All other territory is land which has been stolen from us, and which we must regain." ("Industriekurier", Dusseldorf, June 13th 1953.)



Adenauer: "To show my good will in foreign policy, I have sacked Brentano and got a new watch-dog." (Cartoon by Erich Schmitt, "Berliner Zeitung")

On May 25th 1954 he told the West German Parliament: "Members of the former Kondor Legion who fought in Spain (for Franco, ed.) continued to be professional members of the Wehrmacht during this period, and are therefore entitled to full pension rights for this period".

In 1958 peace supporters and Social Democrats suggested a plebiscite on nuclear weapons in West Germany. Schroeder told the West German Parliament: "Any sort of plebiscite would be an act aimed at undermining the constitution."

Here is what the American magazine "Time" said about Schroeder on November 10th 1961:

"Gerhard Schroeder, 51, is far more insular than the Chancellor, has at best an opportunist's interest in European unity. Though his views may change in office, Schroeder is loosely allied to West Germany's 'new nationalism', which holds that the time has come for the young and powerful nation to assert its own voice in international affairs, relying on its allies only for the nuclear might to back it up. Most dubious part of his record: he is a onetime Nazi party member who explains that he joined in 1933 only as a way to get ahead.

"In Germany's postwar politics Schroeder has shared Adenauer's impatience with parliamentary institutions, argues that the nation needs a 'strong government, strongly led'. Schroeder, who was named deputy floor leader for Adenauer's Christian Democrats in 1952 and has been Interior Minister since 1953, has not hesitated to warn opponents that a vote against the Chancellor is a vote for Communism. Among politicians, Schroeder's boyish subservience to Adenauer earned him the title 'Bonn's oldest young man'.

"He is nonetheless a seasoned political infighter whose cunning and ambition make him difficult to dislodge. One reason for Schroeder's seeming invulnerability, according to politicos, is his habit of keeping copious dossiers on colleagues' lapses and foibles."

(Footnote: On February 19th 1960 GERMAN REPORT quoted some nazi sentiments from a doctor's thesis submitted to Bonn University by a certain Gerhard Schroeder. After these sentences had been reprinted in a West German magazine, Minister Schroeder claimed that the author had been another man of the same name. Since it has been impossible to prove which Schroeder was responsible, GERMAN REPORT withdraws the charge. There is enough dirt on Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroeder without relying on quotations of doubtful authenticity.)

Theatres Run by Students

By Helga Preuss

(During the October theatre and music festival in East Berlin, not only did professional ensembles perform but amateur dramatic groups from factories and colleges also showed what they had achieved. GERMAN REPORT's secretary-bookkeeper Helga Preuss gives her impressions of the student groups in her second article on the festival.)

Nine different student theatre groups were represented at the festival; I was able to visit two very different performances. The Potsdam Teachers College showed a programme which carried on an old tradition of the 1920's, when progressive youth groups got together and expressed their ideas in lively shows composed of songs, poems and short skits. The students arrived at this method almost by accident. The school had assigned the future teachers the job of organising an evening programme in honour of the late Johannes R. Becher, progressive poet and Minister of Culture in the GDR.

The usual, rather tired method is to alternate a poem, a prose recitation, a poem, the poet's biography, a song, another poem and so forth. This time, the students decided to use a lantern slide projector and a tape recorder, two pieces of equipment which are available at every school. They made their own tapes, put together their own photomontages, and before long, they had a very effective programme which included clever parodies of old nazi songs, remembered all too well by adults and now being sung once again in West Germany, lantern slides with newspaper cuttings pointing up parallels between the rise of the fascists before the war and the return of many of them again after it in West Germany, and lastly the poems of anti-fascist poets like Becher, Bertolt Brecht and Erich Weinert.

The programme proved to be both lively and convincing. The students tried it out in a series of villages. During part of their holidays they visited cooperative farms, helped them with harvesting during the day and showed them their programme in the evening. "That was the best kind of advertisement for our show," they said. "We showed them that we students can put in a good day's work, and that made the farmers much more receptive to our programme, even to those who may never before have been interested in poetry."

The performance offered by the student theatre group from the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena was of a very different nature. This fairly new group decided to put on "Servant with Two Masters", a comedy by Carlo Goldoni, the 18th century Italian dramatist. Luckily, it is impossible to bury Goldoni's humour altogether, and even the rather dilettantish, not very well-rehearsed performance of the student group got quite a few laughs. And they had tried to express Goldoni's main idea

The bright poster announcing the first play in East Berlin's new "BAT" — Berlin Worker-Student Theatre. The play, a farce, is called "Taming of the Shrew — 1960".

— that the natural wit and intelligence of common people, even without any education, is enough to get the best of the aristocrats. But this group, too, had plans to show this play in a number of villages. I cannot imagine that this very unfinished job will be of much use to the farmers, who deserve the best which can be offered them. Student theatre, it is stressed here constantly, should be experimental theatre; this performance was no experiment but only a very amateur attempt to copy professional theatre. A good amateur theatre should try especially to express its own ideas and feelings, I think. In this case this was neglected and there was therefore no real contact with the audience.

Many of the student theatres suffered from this same problem of choosing the wrong play. If they have nothing of their own which they wish to get across they need not show their plays to a wider public; there are certainly enough professional theatres in the GDR to meet public demand in this respect.

My impression is, in general, that the workers' theatres are further advanced than the student drama groups. The latter would certainly be taking a wise step if they developed their contacts with workers' groups, who are faced with similar problems to their own, rather than just with professional actors.

The college dramatic groups did take an important step forward at the festival, I should add. They saw performances by other groups, exchanged criticism and suggestions and worked out a plan for getting increased support from their faculties and from the Free German Youth organisation.

One interesting project is worth mentioning. The dramatic group at East Berlin's Humboldt University made an agreement with the worker's group from the Treptow Electric Apparatus Factory to build their own theatre. They found an old, unused cinema theatre in a working-class section of the city which has relatively few theatres and no clubhouses. After much hurried searching, they found engineers who would make them blueprints for remodelling the building within two weeks. Eighteen construction firms will supply them with materials, much of it in the form of a gift. The members of the two dramatic

groups then started to build their theatre themselves. They plan to have it finished by the end of the year, they are already rehearsing the first play, and even the poster has been drawn (see the photocopy). The groups intend to perform three or four evenings a week, which will permit a large number of other factory and student groups to come for guest performances.

This theatre should help the two main groups of amateur actors in the GDR to develop their contacts in the future. They will also have a fine new home for their performances. They can do all the experimenting they want there, and one more good theatre in East Berlin will be a real gain to the cultural life of the city.

GDR LICKS POLIO

The German Democratic Republic has been completely free of polio this year, following the immunisation of almost the entire population up to the age of 40 by use of the Sabin serum, developed by an American scientist. In West Germany, on the other hand, which refused to use the Sabin serum, largely because of the opposition of drug companies which had huge investments in the rival Salk vaccine, the annual polio epidemic has this year caused more than two hundred and twenty deaths and crippled nearly four thousand.

When polio hit West Germany in June this year the GDR offered to supply 3 million units of the Sabin serum, but the offer was turned down and news of the offer was suppressed in West Germany.

Belatedly the West German authorities announced in October that they would now permit the use of the very effective Sabin serum. The announcement came after the Behring Drug Firm, one of the successor companies of the notorious IG Farben concern, had switched to the manufacture of the Sabin serum, and lobbied for its use.

"Karl Marx Allee"

The East Berlin City Council decided on November 13th that the newly-built portion of East Berlin's main street, the Stalin Allee, should in future be called Karl Marx Allee. The suburban portion of the street will revert to its old name of Frankfurter Allee.

On the same date, the industrial town of Stalinstadt was incorporated in its sister town Fuerstenburg, and the combined city was given the name Eisenhuettenstadt – Iron Foundry City.

It was officially announced that the renamings had taken place because of the serious results of the breaches of revolutionary justice in the period of the Stalin cult of the personality.

GALLUP POLL: "RECOGNISE GDR"

Fifty-nine percent of people in Britain believe that the West should recognise the GDR, the "Daily Telegraph" reported on November 23th. Here are some extracts from an article in the "Daily Telegraph" analysing the results of recent Gallup polls:

"The overwhelming majority of our people (71 percent) believe that 'in the present world situation, the West should concentrate its efforts on negotiations with Russia' rather than on 'building up arms', and 81 percent would approve 'if Britain were to try to bring about a Summit meeting with Mr Khrushchov and the Western leaders to discuss the problem of Berlin, H-tests and disarmament'.

"Specifically, on the Berlin issue recent Gallup inquiries on behalf of 'The Daily Telegraph' have found that 71 percent of the British people would approve of negotiations with the Russians. One person in ten disagrees.

"So far as access to the city is concerned, this attitude assumes that the West 'should agree to recognise and deal with the East German Government'. Support for such a move has increased considerably over the past few weeks. In July, 40 percent were in favour of recognising the East Germans, and 22 percent were opposed. Now, 59 percent favour recognition, and those against it have dropped to less than half . . .

"If it did come to a show-down (on Berlin), one in three would then be prepared to maintain our position in the city by military means short of nuclear war. One in eight would do so even if nuclear war were involved.

"This indicates that the British are reasonably agreed that Berlin is not worth a nuclear war. There is also fairly general acceptance of the idea that the East German Government should be recognised. But over some related issues there is much division of opinion in this country . . .

"The idea of a neutral Germany excluded from NATO and the Warsaw Pact alike appeals to very little more than a quarter of our countrymen. The complexities of the Oder-Neisse line defeat most of them, but among those who have an opinion there is a slight majority (9 percent) in favour of accepting these boundaries.

"Mr Khrushchov enjoys some sympathy so far as he apparently aims to do 'anything and everything to prevent West Germany getting nuclear arms'. Forty-one percent say he is justified in this as against 32 who think he is not . . .

SPIKE THAT LIE!

The Editor
Sydney Daily Telegraph
168 Castelreagh St.
Sydney, Australia

Sir,

On October 9th 1961 you published an article by Emery Barcs entitled "Hitler's death camps back in business". The first sentence of this article stated:

"The nauseating news that Hitler's infamous death-camps in East Germany – including Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen and Oranienburg – are full once again is a glaring proof of the new wave of terror which descended on the 'Democratic' Republic of Germany on August 13th."

This libelous statement is completely untrue. I recently visited the sites of the two Nazi concentration camps mentioned (Sachsenhausen and Oranienburg are two different names for one and the same camp), and can state from personal observation that far from being "back in business", both these camps have today been converted into impressive memorials to the tens of thousands of Socialists, Christians, Communists and Jews from all countries of Europe who were murdered there by the Nazis.

In the German Democratic Republic, worthy memorials, visited every day by thousands of people, particularly young people, have been erected on the sites of the Nazi concentration camps to the memory of the men who fought Hitler. In West Germany, old Nazis who sent these anti-Nazis to the camps are back in power: I only need to cite Dr Hans Globke, the man who helped to draft Hitler's anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws, who is today State Secretary in the Government of Dr Adenauer.

If you should have any doubts about what is happening in Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen today, I suggest that the next time a correspondent of the "Sydney Daily Telegraph" is in Berlin, he should get in contact with me. I shall be glad to help him to visit the sites of the two former Nazi concentration camps and he will be able to see for himself.

Yours faithfully,
John Peet

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

As the previous issue of GERMAN REPORT went to press we managed to squeeze in a short paragraph about the arrest in West Germany of Yugoslav partisan Lazar Vracaric. He was arrested on charges of "murder" on the basis of a Gestapo warrant, because he had fought the nazi invaders as a partisan.

Uproar

The uproar throughout the world forced the Bonn authorities to release Vracaric, with a half-hearted apology, five days later. They tried to explain that the whole thing had been a horrible mistake. In fact, of course, it was a revelation of the state of affairs in the West German state: old nazi judges, acting on the basis of a "wanted" list prepared by the Gestapo, commissioned old nazi policemen to arrest a man for fighting Hitler.

It is worth noting the reaction of West German politicians and newspapers. Defence Minister Strauss, for instance, commented that the Vracaric case showed that the time had come to wipe from the slate "all crimes committed in World War Two". This means, of course, in plain language, that the murderers and the murdered should equally be absolved of blame.

The West German newspaper "Kieler Nachrichten" stated on November 9th: "The arrest of Vracaric was an impressive proof of the thoroughness with which the German judicial authorities do their job. In this connection we recall with regret and pain that in foreign prisons, including the prisons of our allies, German soldiers are still held as war criminals for deeds which must be compared with the deeds of the partisan Vracaric."

Some Hope

The militarist "Deutsche Soldatenzeitung", writing before Vracaric had been released, stated on November 10th: "We must hope that the German authorities remain firm, and that following Vracaric all other partisans upon whom we can get our hands will be sentenced to stern and just punishment."

Perhaps it is just as well to recall that the Yugoslav partisan Lazar Vracaric was by no means the first anti-nazi resistance fighter to come into conflict with the West German judicial authorities. In the past ten years many hundreds of West German anti-fascists who spent long terms in Hitler's prisons and concentration camps have been arrested and sent to prison by the West German courts because they continued the anti-fascist struggle. In many cases their "police records" from the nazi period have been read in court, and have been regarded by the West German judges as proof that the accused is a "hardened criminal".

"Sack him? No!"

On November 12th Chancellor Adenauer was asked in a West German TV interview if he intended finally to sack Dr Hans Globke, State Secretary and Adenauer's right-hand man. Adenauer shook his head and said: "No, no, I've no reason to."

So Dr Adenauer has no reason to dismiss the man who played a key part in the systematic nazi campaign to exterminate the Jews. Over the past few years, GERMAN REPORT has presented its readers with chapter and verse on the crimes of Dr Globke, but there may still be some people who think it is all "red propaganda". But now, at long last, a reputable West German publishing house has found the courage to publish a complete collection of the documents on the Globke case. It is a damning collection of facts, and a damning condemnation of the West German Government which has kept such a man in office for so long.

The book, entitled simply "Dr Hans Globke", was published a few weeks ago by Ruetten & Loening Verlag, Hamburg, West Germany. It was compiled by Reinhard Strecker, young West German publicist who came into the public eye a year or two ago when he ran a one-man campaign against the nazi judges back on the bench there.

In this volume of just under 300 pages, Reinhard Strecker has brought together all the documents, mainly from the files of the nazi Ministry of the Interior, and presented them with a minimum of comment. It is reported that when Dr Globke received a copy of the book he had a heart attack; and well he might, because it proves, without a shadow of a doubt, the very leading part he played in drafting for the nazis their main anti-Semitic legislation and ordinances.

It is a tough book to read, even if you know German well, because it consists almost entirely of documents, ranging from the anti-Semitic decrees which Globke drafted even before Hitler came into power, to the official personnel plans of the nazi Ministry of the Interior. But I would urge any readers who know German, and who are interested in the sort of men who run West Germany today, to order a copy from their booksellers. It costs 5.90 marks, or about 10 shillings, and is a bargain at the price.

And if you want to get a copy, you had better hurry up, because Dr Globke, after recovering from his heart attack, rushed round to the courts in Bonn to try to obtain an injunction against the further circulation of the book. In his application to the court he did not try to deny the authenticity of the documents, but claimed that they did not mean what they said. Even the Bonn court, generally only too willing to do what a powerful man like Dr Globke wants, was apparently not impressed, because it refused him a preliminary injunction, and ruled that any action would have to be postponed until a full hearing of the case scheduled for December 13th. But Dr Globke has powerful friends, so you had better order it now. Please note that GERMAN REPORT cannot supply this book; you will have to order it from a bookseller.

Gilt-edged

With Christmas round the corner, glossy magazines in the western world are advertising gifts "for the person who has everything" such as mink-lined bathing suits, and platinum bottle-openers. But what do you give to a Communist who has everything? I am sorry to be able to report that an apparently demented book firm in Leipzig in the German Democratic Republic has now come up with the answer: the three volumes of Karl Marx's classical "Das Kapital", bound in parchment and beige leather, gilt-edged, with spine and cover title in gold. And this handy little gift will only set you back 770 marks, about £65.

Just to re-assure readers, I should note that editions of "Das Kapital" which you can read, and not just lock up in your safe, are available here at perfectly ordinary prices. I hope the book firm which thought this one up is left sitting on a huge pile of unsold gilt-edged volumes.

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